

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 AGR-05 HEW-02 AID-05 CEA-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAG, EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: EC WINE LABELING

REFS: A) ATF 0157

B) STATE A-6511

C) EC A-275, 8/30/74

1. THE COMMISSION (REICHARDT HAS TOLD THE MISSION INFORMALLY THAT IF THE US WISHES TO RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM DEROGATIONS ALLOWABLE ON WINE VARIETIES AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS CONTAINED IN COUNCIL REGULATION NO. 2133/74, IT SHOULD PRESENT A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE SUCH A FORMAL REQUEST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT IT CAN CONSULT WITH THE MEMBER STATES WHILE THEY ARE REVIEWING THIRD COUNTRIES' SUBMISSIONS OF LISTS OF GRAPE VARIETIES AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF PRODUCTION (REFS A AND B).

2. UNDER COUNCIL REGULATION NO. 2133/74 THE NAME OF A VARIETY CANNOT APPEAR ON THE LABEL UNLESS THE WINE IS MADE ENTIRELY FROM GRAPES OF THAT VARIETY (ARTICLE XXXII); HOWEVER, A DEROGATION CAN BE ALLOWED FOR A PRODUCT OBTAINED AT LEAST 85 PERCENT FROM THE VARIETY SPECIFIED. SIMILARLY FOR WINES PRODUCED FROM GRAPES HARVESTED IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, ARTICLE

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XXXI ALLOWS A DEROGATION WHEREBY A GEOGRAPHIC AREA CAN BE LISTED

ON A LABEL PROVIDED THAT THE WINE IS OBTAINED AT LEAST 85 PERCENT FROM GRAPES HARVESTED IN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA SPECIFIED.

3. DR. REICHARDT FEELS THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM IN GRANTING A US REQUEST FOR DEROGATIONS ALLOWED UNDER REGULATION NO. 2133/74.

4. COMMENT: EVEN UNDER THE MAXIMUM DEROGATIONS OF 85 PERCENT, US WINE EXPORTS WOULD STILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES MEETING EC LABELING STANDARDS. US RULES PERMIT WINES TO BE LABELED AS BEING PRODUCED FROM A GIVEN VARIETY AS LONG AS 51 PERCENT IS PRODUCED FROM THAT VARIETY AS LONG AS 51 PERCENT IS PRODUCED FROM THAT VARIETY. FOR GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF PRODUCTION, THE US STANDARD IS 75 PERCENT. MORRIS

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